Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 087013 ORIGIN EA-09

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S/PRS:MR. CARTER
S/S:MR. SEBASTIAN
P:MR. HABIB
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O 182246Z APR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

SECRETSTATE 087013

FOR EA ONLY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: US/VN RELATIONS; PARIS TALKS

REF: PARIS 11183

EYES ONLY FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE FROM OAKLEY

1. RE PARA 4 REFTEL ON MODALITIES, WE WOULD LIKE PRATT TO INFORM DO THANH OF AT LEAST OUR PRELIMINARY VIEWS ON MORNING APRIL 20 AS SUGGESTED. WE PROPOSE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL:

A. WE WOULD AGREE THAT THE FIRST SESSION COULD GO ONE OR SECRET

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TWO DAYS DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER OF A SECOND SESSION AT THE END OF THE FIRST ONE. (FYI. WE ENVISAGE A SECOND MEETING WITHIN 5-7 DAYS, ALLOWING TIME FOR CONSULTATION IN CAPITALS. THIS WOULD MAKE BEST USE OF TIME FOR BOTH YOU AND PHAN HIEN. IF SECOND MEETING IS NOT PROMISING, WE COULD ADJOURN FOR REFLECTION INSTEAD OF SCHEDULING ANOTHER MEETING.)

B. WE AGREE THAT MEETINGS COULD ALTERNATE AT EACH OTHER'S EMBASSY OR OTHER MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SITE. WE ACCEPT THEIR INVITATION TO HAVE THE FIRST SESSION AT THEIR

OFFICE AND RESIDENCE ON AVENUE MADRID. WE WOULD HOST ANY NEXT SESSION EITHER AT OUR CHANCERY OR THE AMBASSADOR'S OR DCM'S RESIDENCE.

- C. WE PREFER FRENCH AS A WORKING LANGUAGE AND WILL HAVE A FRENCH-ENGLISH INTERPRETER PRESENT. WE WILL ALSO HAVE A VIETNAMESE-LANGUAGE OFFICER (KEN QUINN) PRESENT.
- D. WE SEE NO PROBLEM WITH TAPE-RECORDING THE SESSIONS IF THE VIETNAMESE WISH. WE INTEND TO HAVE A STENO-GRAPHER PRESENT.
- E. OUR DELEGATION WOULD CONSIST OF HOLBROOKE, ROSENTHAL, SIEVERTS, PRATT AND QUINN, PLUS AN INTERPRETER AND STENOGRAPHER. WE BELIEVE MORT SMITH SHOULD ALSO BE ON HAND IN PARIS TO HANDLE PRESS AND WOULD LIKE HIM TO ATTEND TALKS, AS HE DID DURING THE WOODCOCK TRIP, UNLESS VIETNAMESE DISAGREE.
- F. WE WOULD PLAN TO BRIEF THE PRESS AT OUR EMBASSY FOLLOWING THE MEETING. THE VIETNAMESE WOULD BE INVITED TO SEND AN OBSERVER. THE TWO SIDES WOULD AGREE BEFORE-HAND IN THE MEETING ON THE GENERAL LINE TO BE TAKEN WITH THE PRESS REGARDING SUBSTANCE OF THE MEETING; THERE SECRET

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WOULD BE NO RELEASE OF TEXTS OF STATEMENTS OR OTHER REMARKS EXCEPT AS AGREED. HOWEVER, EACH SIDE WOULD BE FREE TO CHARACTERIZE THE MEETING AND TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS WITHIN THE AGREED GENERAL GUIDELINES. WE INTEND TO KEEP OUR STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS BRIEF, FACTUAL, AND DEVOID OF RHETORIC.

- G. WE SUGGEST THAT SRV REPS, AS HOSTS FOR FIRST SESSION, INFORM FRENCH AUTHORITIES OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING AND ARRANGE ANY NECESSARY SECURITY, ETC. WE WILL DO THE SAME WHEN WE HOST ANY SUBSEQUENT SESSION.
- 3. WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON ABOVE SOONEST SO THAT WE CAN INSTRUCT PRATT PROMPTLY. VANCE

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| | Margaret P. Grafeld | Declassified/Released | US Department of State | EO Systematic Review | 22 May 2009 |
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